

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided. Applicant further gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 1-13 and the indication of the allowability of claims 14-31. Upon entry of the present paper, claims 1-31 will remain pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has maintained the provisional non-statutory double-patenting rejection of claims 14-31 in view of claims 14-31 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/815,193. In response to this double-patenting rejection, Applicant encloses herewith a duly executed Terminal Disclaimer.

Applicant is filing the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer merely to remove any issue as to whether the claims of the above-identified application and those of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/815,193 in any way conflict. However, neither Applicant nor the Assignee intends to make any representation as to whether the invention defined by any of the claims of either the present application or U.S. Patent Application No. 10/815,193 would have been obvious in view of the other or whether an obviousness-type double patenting rejection would be appropriate if the enclosed terminal disclaimer were not filed. Applicant emphasizes that the terminal disclaimer is being filed only to expedite the allowance of the pending claims.

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Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present application meets all requirements for patentability, and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the allowance of each and every pending claim in the present application.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR THE INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER AND OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Statements of Reasons for the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter and of Reasons for Allowance, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on January 23, 2006, along with the above-noted Office Action, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for patentability of the allowed claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indications that certain identified features are not disclosed by the prior art references, as noted by the Examiner, Applicant further wishes to clarify that each of the independent claims in the present application recites a particular combination of features, and the basis for patentability of each of these claims is further based on the particular totality of the features recited therein. The dependent claims set forth additional basis for their patentability in accordance with their recited limitations as well as in accordance with the particular limitations of the respective base claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, consideration of the present Response, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and are now believed to be appropriate.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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